

Message Text

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SUBJ: ESCAP: ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
(ACPR): INFORMAL MEETING MARCH 4, 1976

1. SUMMARY: TO PREPARE FOR UPCOMING 32ND SESSION, ACPR HELD INFORMAL MEETING AT BRITISH EMBASSY TO DISCUSS A) HOW TO ENLARGE ACPR'S TERMS OF REFERENCE RELATING TO WORK PROGRAMS AND B) POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE ON CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF CREATING NEW SHIPPING COMMITTEE. AGREEMENT WAS QUICK AND EASY FOR FIRST TOPIC BUT INDIA AND SRI LANKA STILL APPEARED ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO ANY FORMULA SAVE THEIR OWN I.E. A NEW SHIPPING COMMITTEE. NEXT INFORMAL MEETING SCHEDULED MARCH 10. END SUMMARY.

2. INDONESIAN REP CHAIRED INFORMAL MEETING AT BRITISH EMBASSY INCLUDING REPS FROM INDIA, FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, USSR, US, AUSTRALIA, KOREA, SINGAPORE, SRILANKA AND BANGLADESH. GROUP QUICKLY AGREED ON LANGUAGE TO PROPOSE FOR COMMISSION ENDORSEMENT WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE ACPR HENCEFORTH "TO EXAMINE, DISCUSS AND APPRAISE TOTAL WORK PROGRAM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION, KEEPING IN MIND SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISCIPLINES." GENERAL COMMISSION ENDORSEMENT WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT FOR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN ACPR REPORT TO COMMISSION (ESCAP DOC L444). WE RECOMMEND USDEL SUPPORT THIS ENDORSEMENT.

3. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 31ST SESSION IN NEW DELHI, PERMREPS DISCUSSED INFORMALLY CREATION OF SHIPPING COMMITTEE. CHAIRMAN MADE TWO INTERESTING PROPOSALS: A) CREATE A SPECIAL BODY,
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SIMILAR TO ONE ON LAND LOCKED COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD MEET BIEN-

NALLY WITH SSSP (SPECIAL STAFF ON SHIPPING AND POSTS) REMAIN-
ING DIRECTLY UNDER MARAMIS, AND B) INCORPORATE SHIPPING, PRTS
AND INLAND WATERWAYS IN TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (T AND C)
COMMITTEE AND DISCUSS SHIPPING AND OTHER TRANSPORT ISSUES ON
ALTERNATE YEARS. SHIPPING COULD BE DISCUSSED ANNUALLY IF TRADE
AND T AND C COMMITTEES REDUCED THEIR MEETINGS TO PROVIDE SUFFI-
CIENT TIME.

4. NEW ZEALAND OPPOSED SPECIAL BODY CONCEPT WHICH WAS REGARDED
AS EUPHEMISM FOR REGULAR COMMITTEE BUT SUPPORTED REORGANIZATION
OF T AND C COMMITTEE. JAPAN FAVORED CONTINUATION OF EXISTING
INSTITUTIONS OR THEIR MODIFICATION. SRI LANKAN REP OPPOSED ALL
CONCEPTS SAVE ITS OWN: CREATION OF NEW SEPARATE COMMITTEE. INDIA
REP OPPOSED T AND C COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION AND WAS WILLING TO
CONSIDER SPECIAL BODY BUT DOUBTED NEW DELHI WOULD ACCEPT IT. UK
STRONGLY SUPPORTS RESTRUCTURING T AND C COMMITTEE BECAUSE SHIP-
PING BELONGS THERE AND ROAD AND RAIL WORK PROGRAMS ARE DIMI-
NISHING AND PROSPECTIVZ ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY WILL TAKE
OVER COMMUNICATION RESPONSIBILITIES.

5. GIVEN INTRANSIGENT INDIAN AND SRI LANKA POSITIONS WE WONDERED
ALoud WHETHER WE COULD POSTPONE ESCAP DECISION ON SHIPPING FOR
ONE MORE YEAR TO AVOID LONG ARGUMENTS AT PLENARY. NO ONE ELSE
AGREED.

6. COMMENT: WE THINK TRANSFORMING T AND C COMMITTEE WOULD BE
BEST SOLUTION BUT BELIEVE COMPROMISE SOLUTION WILL MOST LIKELY
BE AGREEMENT ON SPZCIAL BODY ON SHIPPING. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD
DEFER TO WHAT REGIONAL MEMBERS AGREE UPON BUT AT MOMENT AGREE-
MENT IS NO CLOSER THAN IT WAS AT NEW DELHI.

7. NEXT INFORMAL ACPR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 10.
WHITEHOUSE

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